

That and an ironclad sense of integrity created a system that secured many business deals with a handshake.

"He showed us by example that you don't lie, cheat or steal," Ecker III said.

Ecker III and his father both attended the little elementary school that was once known as Union School on Union Street. The school had two name changes. It became Central School; then, in 1985, became Paul Ecker-Central School, named after Paul Ecker Sr.

Over the years, the family has supported the school's sixth-grade camp and literacy programs, Principal Gregg Sonken said.

This year, Ecker Jr. sponsored a field trip so each of the school's students could visit San Diego Natural History Museum.

"He would frequently call and ask if he could come by the school," Sonken said. "He was just a great benefactor of our school. He really took an interest in our students."

Ecker Jr. himself was a student at San Diego High School, where he graduated in 1942.

He soon joined the Navy and served in the Pacific aboard the USS Knapp. He was called back to duty in 1951 to serve as an ensign aboard the USS Perkins in the China Sea during the Korean War. Even then, his green thumb was irrepressible. After a day of heavy shelling, sailors had disposed of dirt that shook loose from planter boxes in the officers' mess hall. "He convinced the captain to send a patrol to (the North Korean) shore to get more soil," Ecker III said.

FLOWER POWER

During the years between his military deployments, Ecker Jr. earned a degree in horticulture from Ohio State University in 1949. From there, Ecker Jr. pioneered the use of greenhouses to grow poinsettias, because the controlled environment produced faster-growing plants that were less susceptible to disease.

His company would become the innovator that set competitive standards in the industry, said Chuck Gainan, president of the Society of American Florists. "People would aspire to do it as well as they do," Gainan said. Gainan and other agriculture experts say Ecker Jr. has given the flower industry political muscle and other support.

Bob Echter is a member of the San Diego County Farm Bureau's board of directors who grows flowers on property he rents from the Eckes. "He has always been very fair with his desire to help farmers grow and compete," he said.

Ecker Jr. was responsible for the construction of the Floral Trade Center in Carlsbad, a trucking and distribution hub for a number of North County flower growers. Beyond North County, he lobbied Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham to include language protecting flower growers' intellectual property in federal legislation that would become the North American Free Trade Act, said Bob Vice, a former colleague of Ecker Jr.'s on the fair board.

Locally, Ecker Jr. chose not to oppose Encinitas' incorporation in 1986 as long as the family's acreage was not included as part of the city. That decision came at a time when many flower growers were against incorporation, anticipating their property taxes would rise. "He didn't want to get involved in a controversial situation," said former councilman Rick Shea. "In essence we created a city shaped like a doughnut. The Eckes were the hole in the middle." As the city's general plan took shape, the Eckes were open and receptive, Shea said, and eventually annexed their property into the city.

Lola Larson, a longtime neighbor who attended elementary school with Ecker Jr., said

he was "very likeable and always on his best behavior." Except on certain days when he walked to school with boys who threw stones at a glass greenhouse. "They eventually broke every pane," she said. "Finally the owner got incensed and came to the school. He said 'Who did this?' Paul jumped right up and said he did it."

THAYNE ROBSON

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, the State of Utah has lost one of its favorite sons with the sudden, untimely passing of Thayne Robson.

In a career spanning more than four decades, Thayne Robson counseled governors and local government leaders, dispensing an incomparable blend of wit and wisdom about Utah's economic fortunes. His stature as the dean of an elite cadre of Utah economists is fixed in the state's history. He helped craft the fiscal policies of Governors Cal Rampton, Scott Matheson, Norman Bangerter and Mike Leavitt. Always a gentleman but frequently contrarian, Thayne was known to temper his colleagues' rosy forecasts with a word of caution and to see clear skies where others foresaw storm clouds. His track record was exceptional; his influence immeasurable.

Thayne's word was golden—good enough, in fact, to take to the bank. And that's exactly what Utah officials did. His expert forecasts of Utah's Economic climate contributed to the sterling credit ratings bestowed on the State of Utah by New York rating agencies.

Not only was Thayne a trusted economic forecaster and policy advisor, he was the impetus to restructuring the state's economic development efforts. He forecasted the decline of Utah's mining and agricultural sectors and encouraged government officials to diversify the state's economy through travel, tourism and technology. He spearheaded a move to strategically focus state and local economic development efforts within a single organization, known today as the Economic Development Corporation of Utah.

Thayne's professional credentials include teacher, researcher, respected business economist. But he was also a great civic leader. Not one to live quietly in academia's cloistered halls, Thayne was active in local organizations and community affairs, lending his support and expertise to a host of favorite causes. He demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the betterment of the community and the state he loved so much.

Thayne was a gifted communicator. He had a rare ability to translate complex concepts into language people could understand. Thayne's plainspoken interpretation of economic news was a regular feature in the media's broadcasts and news columns.

Thayne was fond of saying, "If you laid all the economists in the country end to end, they still couldn't reach a conclusion." In at least one instance, he was wrong. I am certain his colleagues join countless other Utahns and me in affirming that Thayne Robson was a man of great intellect, uncommon wisdom and good humor. His passing is a great loss. We will treasure his memory and give thanks for his incalculable contributions to the state of Utah.

IN TRIBUTE TO RUDY FAVILA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great friend of the Inland Empire, Rudy Favila. Rudy will be awarded the Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt Democrat of the Year Award for 2002 this Sunday, May 19th at the California ScienCenter in Los Angeles. This honor is being given to Rudy for his dedicated leadership in supporting the Ontario community and the Democratic Party.

Rudy is a California native, born in Sacramento, California, where he got his degree from Sacramento State University in Criminal Justice. Rudy and his wife of 33 years, Claudia, moved to Ontario in 1978. They have two children, Colleen and Cristel, who grew up in Ontario, and now have two young grandchildren.

Rudy has served as a dedicated community servant for the past 25 years. He held positions as both Health and Safety Officer and Treatment Team Supervisor of the California Youth Authority. In these positions he worked to safeguard the health of our youth in correctional facilities and to shape their daily experiences. Through this work he was able to provide these youth with opportunities for a positive future. Rudy made a mark on Ontario by serving as a Council Member of the City of Ontario. He worked hard on efforts to create the Ontario Teen Center, to build the Ontario Convention Center, the Mills Mall and to expand the Ontario Airport Terminal. He was also instrumental in implementing Neighborhood Watch Programs, Community Policing, and programs to recycle and conserve water resources.

Although Rudy recently retired, he has continued to work to improve and support the Inland Empire by promoting outreach, health and wellness. The American Red Cross recognized Rudy's work coordinating resources and funds to rebuild the Red Cross facility in the wake of September 11th by awarding him their Dedication and Leadership Award. Rudy has also been active in the Ontario Democrats, Kiwanis International, the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, and as a member of the Special Education Community Advisory Board.

I extend my heartiest congratulations to Rudy. I thank him for being a model of community service and for contributing so much to improve the quality of life for all the residents of the Inland Empire.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 14, 2002, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall votes 159 through 161 due to an academic awards ceremony involving my son. Had I been present I would have voted 'yea' on rollcall vote 159, 'yea' on rollcall vote 160, and 'yea' rollcall vote 161.